

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 3 to 11, 14 to 16, and 20-23 are pending.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 9, 11, 15 and 20 are allowed and that claim 16 contains allowable subject matter.

The claims have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner.

The claims have also been amended to further distinguish over Lewis. In one embodiment of the invention, a liquid inlet opening 11 is provided as shown in Figures 1 to 6. Flow from the blood vessel 8 into this opening allows the surgeon to determine the position of insertion tube 10 with respect to blood vessel 8. Please see for example paragraph 0037 of the as filed application. Even if port 70d of Lewis is considered to be a liquid inlet opening, it is completely covered by catheter body 92, unlike the amended claims.

Applicants believe that there are other differences between the claims and Lewis as well, but it is believed that the amendment renders a discussion in this regard moot.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 29, 2006

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GL', is written over a horizontal line.

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